

**EPA ADMINISTRATOR CAROL M. BROWNER ANNOUNCES
THE SELECTION OF 12 NEW BROWNFIELDS SHOWCASE
COMMUNITIES**

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SHOWCASE COMMUNITIES**

EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner today announced an expansion of the Brownfields National Partnership with the selection of 12 new Showcase Communities for \$4.8 million. This announcement is part of the Clinton-Gore Administration's ongoing commitment to clean up Brownfields B abandoned, lightly contaminated sites B and restore them to productive community use.

"The success of the Clinton-Gore Administration's efforts to revitalize brownfields clearly demonstrates that economic prosperity and the protection of public health and the environment go hand-in-hand," said Administrator Browner. "The selection of these new Showcase Communities will help foster the cleanup of abandoned contaminated properties, while also bringing new jobs and new economic opportunities to these communities."

The Showcase Communities effort is a key part of the Administration's successful Brownfields Initiative, which since its creation in 1993, has awarded grants to 362 communities nationwide totaling over \$140 million. These grants have resulted in nearly 7,000 new jobs and have leveraged over \$2.3 billion in investment. For every dollar invested by federal, state and local governments, almost \$2.50 of private investment has been leveraged.

This is the second round of Showcase Communities -- the first round of 16 communities was announced by Vice President Gore in March 1998 and has resulted in more than \$900 million in cleanup and economic redevelopment funds. In addition, the Showcase Communities effort has assessed 536 properties and

generated 2,716 jobs.

Selected on a competitive basis, each Showcase Community will receive up to \$200,000 for environmental cleanup assessments and \$200,000 to support a federal staff person loaned to the community for two years, for a total initial commitment of \$4.8 million. Additional financial and technical aid will be made available to the Showcase Communities from a wide range of federal programs depending on the community's needs.

As the centerpiece of the Administration's Brownfields National Partnership, the Showcase Communities initiative brings together more than 20 federal agencies to enable communities to clean up brownfields sites. Using the funding provided, communities will work with local and state officials to develop local solutions to clean up and redevelop brownfields. These communities will then serve as national models for other communities working to develop broad-based cooperative efforts for the cleanup and reuse of similar lightly contaminated properties.

The 12 new Showcase Communities include:

Mystic Valley Development Commission, (Cities of Everett, Malden, Medford) Mass.

New Bedford, Mass.

Niagara Region, N.Y.

Cape Charles, Va.

Jackson, Miss.

Milwaukee, Wis.

St. Louis, Mo., and East St. Louis, Ill.

Houston, Texas

Des Moines, Iowa

Denver, Colo.

Gila River Indian Community, Ariz.

Metlakatla, Alaska

The Administration's Brownfields redevelopment efforts are an important part of the President's overall community empowerment agenda, designed to create new opportunities and revitalize local economies in the nation's communities.

For further information about the Showcase Communities to:

www.epa.gov/brownfields/showcase.htm.

R-148 # # #